

April 21, 1999

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Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Re: Docket No. 98N-1038, Irradiation in the Production, processing and Handling of Food

To Whom it May Concern:

I am a wife and mother of two toddlers and am very concerned about this issue of labeling or not labeling foods treated with irradiation.

I support the advice given by the Center for Science in the Public Interest regarding labeling of irradiated foods:

“any foods, or any foods containing ingredients that have been treated by irradiation, should be labeled with a written statement on the principal display panel indicating such treatment. This statement should be easy to read and placed in close proximity to the name of the food and accompanied by the international symbol. If the food is unpackaged this information should be clearly displayed on a poster in plain view and adjacent to where the product is displayed for sale.”

Not only do I agree wholeheartedly with the above, but I would like to go a step further to suggest that all unpackaged food should have individual stickers placed on the product stating the process by which they or their ingredients have been treated. Apples and other produce often have a small sticker displaying the logo of the orchard from which they originated. It couldn't be asking too much more to have a label which states processing either added near or actually on the original stickers.

Similar to other labels, irradiation labels are required by the FDA to state the truth and not mislead the public. I believe that phrases such as

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(1) LYNNE RUSSELL

"treated by irradiation" or treated with irradiation" should be kept. Any phrase using the word "pasteurization" is deceitful. Pasteurization is a completely different process of rapid heating and cooling!

Concerning labeling with the radura - Yes, I believe the radura should be on the label; and that by itself, the radura is insufficient. Some consumers might not be aware of its meaning. Kids and immigrants would especially be at the risk of being uninformed. There should be a clear, bold, written statement on the label so that all consumers are fully aware that the food product has been irradiated. I would like to see any such label include in fine print that irradiation may or may not change the consistency of the product and could possibly even be harmful to them.

Of one thing I am certain, I do not want to eat any irradiated food products. I will do all that is in my power to insure that my family, especially my precious children put no such thing into their bodies. After all, these are the only ones we have.

May God grant you wisdom as you work to protect and inform the American public you serve.

Sincerely,

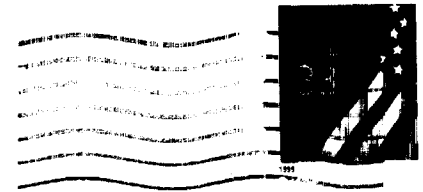
Lynne Noelle Russell

Lynne Noelle Russell

* you may respond to me at:

Lynne Russell
1255 - 59th ST#C
Emeryville, CA 94608

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1255 - 59th ST #C
Emeryville, CA 94608



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